

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Yasushige NAKAMURA,
Yasuyuki FURUSE, and
Seijirou ISHIMARU

Serial Number: Filed Concurrently

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE FORMING TONER, 2-COMPONENT DEVELOPER, IMAGE FORMING
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING IMAGE FORMING TONER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: February 28, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) An image forming method comprising:

 a step of forming an image on a medium by using a developer comprising a toner in which the ratio of the component of the toner measured by gel permeation chromatography to have molecular weight of 500 to 1000 is less than 10 parts by weight with respect to the 100 parts by weight of the entire toner; and

 a step of performing flash fixation of the toner on said medium.

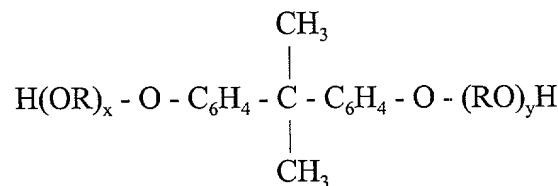
Add the following new claims:

13. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein:

the ratio of the component having molecular weight of 500 or less of said toner, measured by gel permeation chromatography, is less than 4 parts by weight with respect to the 100 parts by weight of the entire toner.

14. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein:

said binding agent resin comprises at least a polyester resin prepared from an polyester alcohol component consisting of a bisphenol-A-alkylene oxide additive, as an alcohol, expressed by the chemical formula given below, and an acid:



where, R is ethylene or propylene, and x and y are both integers equal to 1 or more.

15. The image forming method of claim 14, wherein:

x and y in the formula for said bisphenol-A-alkylene oxide additive are 1, and R is ethylene in up to 60 mole % or more of said polyester alcohol component.

16. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein:

 said toner further includes 0.01 to 10 parts by weight for 100 parts by weight of the toner of the compound given by chemical formula given below:



17. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein:

 said toner further includes a polypropylene compound with an average molecular weight average of 10,000 or more.

18. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein:

 a component having a molecular weight of 500 or less, as measured by gel permeation chromatography is less than 4 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the entire toner; and

 said developer includes a carrier having an average particle diameter of 30 to 100 μm .

19. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein said 500 to 1000 weight component is 5 parts by weight or less with respect to 100 parts by weight of the entire toner.

20. The image forming method of claim 14, wherein said acid contains a terephthalic acid.

21. The image forming method of claim 14, wherein said alcohol component contains more

than 90 mole % of said bisphenol-A-alkylene oxide additive.

22. The image forming method of claim 9, further including collecting a sublimate of a binder of the toner caused by the flash fixing with a high efficiency particulate air filter.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 9 has been amended and new claims 13-22 have been added to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Donald W. Hanson
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27,133

Atty. Case No. 000738A
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930
DWH:nk

Marked Up Version of Amendments to Claims

IN THE CLAIMS:

9. (Amended) An image forming method comprising:

a step of forming ~~a toner~~ an image on a medium by using a developer comprising a toner in which the ratio of the component of the toner measured by gel permeation chromatography to have molecular weight of 500 to 1000 is less than 10 parts by weight with respect to the 100 parts by weight of the entire toner; and

a step of performing flash fixation of the toner on said medium.